

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 22, 2008**

Members Present: Ennis, Corsa, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Smith, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Timberman, Wasson

Members Excused: Carroll and Lardizzone

Staff Present: Davila and Quinlan-Wuest

Guests: Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association) and Chris Portante (SOS)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by reporting that he attended the operational meeting at the Veterans Home and it went very well and encouraged all Commissioners to attend the meetings.

Mr. McMullen reported that the Professional Airman's Conference will be held August 23–27, 2008, in San Antonio, TX.

Ms. Quinlan-Wuest provided a copy of the Veterans Home report. She gave a short briefing and answered questions.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT JUNE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY THOMPSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the next Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting at the Northern Cemetery will be on October 16, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Mr. Davila reported on the construction progress at the Northern Cemetery, as well as the proposed construction projects being planned for the Southern Cemetery.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Ennis reported that they are still working on the guest speaker arrangements for Veterans Day on November 11, 2008.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa reported that the leaf issue for the donation tree at the Veterans Home had not yet been resolved. Chairman Ennis suggested that the issue be discussed under new business.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Smith (AMVETS) – The National Convention is scheduled for August 2-9, 2008, in Orlando, FL, and he plans to attend.

Lank (MOWW) – The National Convention will be held July 30-August 3, 2008, in Columbus, GA.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL Department of Delaware held their annual Convention and elections last month.

Ennis (KWVA) – Chapter 1 in Sussex raised \$14,000 for their Warrior Fund, which was presented at John Hopkins in a ceremony. Another chapter raised several thousand dollars selling Glen Miller Orchestra tickets at Dover Downs and plans to do another fundraiser in the future.

Wasson (DELVETS) – Reported that they had a picnic on the 4th of July.

Harden (WAVES) – Reported that Delaware Unit 10 celebrated their 25th Anniversary and will not be meeting again until September 2008.

Kitson (VFW) – In August, he will be attending the National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Newstadt (JWV) – Thanked Commissioner Harden for providing tickets to the JWV members and spouses for a function at Longwood Gardens. He also reported that the annual JWV picnic will be held on August 17, 2008, at the Talley Day Park; everyone is invited.

Corsa (VVA) – The Home Town Banner Program is doing quite well and has even branched out into Pennsylvania. The Brain Injury Association (BIA) Convention will be held October 22, 2008, at the Sheraton in Dover and will highlight Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). He attended the KWVA fundraiser for wounded warriors.

Evans (American Legion) – They just completed their 2008 State Convention at the Sheraton. The installation of new officers will occur on August 10, 2008, at Post 2 in Dover.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION BY SPITZFADEN TO APPROVE \$500 AS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR THE DONATION TREE AT THE VETERANS HOME, SECONDED BY LANK, MOTION WITHDRAWN.

There was discussion concerning the dollar amount for the leaves on the donation tree at the Veterans Home. Commissioner Lank suggested that they should assign a committee to study the issue before making a decision. Commissioners Lank, Spitzfaden and Corsa were assigned to the committee and asked to report at the August Commission meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Ennis reported that congress finally passed authorization for KWVA to have a National charter after 50+ years.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Spitzfaden brought up the issue of an e-mail that was sent to each Commissioner in reference to a complaint about the Delaware Veterans Home. There was discussion about the complaint process and how they are handled. Ms. Quinlan-Wuest explained the difference between a complaint and an incident. The Commission was reassured that there is a Veterans Home Resident Advisory Committee that meets regularly and is well attended by residents, as well as family members. Ms. Quinlan-Wuest stated that no staff is allowed at the meetings unless they are asked to attend by the Committee.

Commissioner Newstadt questioned as to whether we have received an official definition from the Legislators as to the Commission's relationship with the Delaware Veterans Home. Chairman Ennis stated that we had not received a response.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 26, 2008 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED